

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House Appropriations Committee today approved legislation that will fund energy and water programs across the country. Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), who sits on the Appropriations Committee, succeeded in including four local projects in the \$33 billion Energy and Water funding bill.

"The images we've seen over the past few weeks from the Midwest show us just how devastating floods can be. I continue to be vocal in my support for federal funds to ensure the Pajaro and San Lorenzo rivers won't be a danger to our communities," Rep. Farr said. "This bill also includes important money to support the Monterey Bay, ensuring we're not dumping untreated water and shoring up other infrastructure projects."

Local projects included in the bill:

- **\$4 million for the Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project.** This project will recycle 4,000 acre-ft of water per year that is currently discharged into the ocean. The project will reduce pumping of ground water from the over-drafted ground water basin that underlies the Watsonville and Pajaro Valley areas. As a result of over-drafting, the basin wells are experiencing sea water intrusion forcing them to be abandoned.

- **\$800,000 for the Pajaro River Flood Control Project in Watsonville.** Funds will be used to complete the final Environmental Impact Statement associated with the General Reevaluation Report. Other tasks that require funds include a geotechnical investigation and evaluation, final design documentation and a draft Project Cooperation Agreement.

- **\$400,000 for the San Lorenzo River Flood Control Project in Santa Cruz.** Funds will be used for the design of modification of existing levees to raise them 12 inches, which would eliminate the need for additional dredging.

- **\$713,000 for the Moss Landing Harbor District.** Funds would be used to repair the crumbling south jetty at the Federal Channel at Moss Landing Harbor. The current damage forces costly dredging and could close the entrance channel.

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This bill will next be brought before the full House of Representatives for a vote. The inclusion of these projects is an important step in securing final funding for the projects.

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